Pest Update (July 21, 2010)

Vol. 8, no. 20

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Note: samples containing living tissue may only be accepted from South Dakota. Please do not send samples of dying plants or insect from other states. If you live outside of South Dakota and have a question, please send a digital picture of the pest or problem instead. **Walnut samples may not be sent in from any location – please provide a picture instead**.

Available on the net at:
http://sdda.sd.gov/Forestry/Educational-Information/PestAlert-Archives.aspx

In this issue **pg**

Plant development for the growing season

We are seeing the hydrangeas and Ural false-spireas in bloom across the state we are about on schedule for the year regarding plant and pest development, if not a little ahead.

Current concerns

We are receiving samples of a beetle that people believe to the emerald ash borer. It is not, though the confusion is understandable since this is another member of the same family, Buprestidae. The insect being submitted is the green metallic wood-borer *Buprestis confluenta*. The adults are about ¾-inch long and are covered with fine yellow specks that range from widely spaced to almost confluent. The larvae are found in cottonwood and poplars and usually occur in dying or dead trees. They are a western species but are more commonly found East River, rather than West River, in South Dakota.

Questions on curled ash leaves are still coming in. The ash leaf curl aphid, also known as the woolly ash aphid (*Prociphilus fraxinifolii*) is showing up across the state again this year as it frequently does each summer. The symptoms are curled leaves forming rosettes at the ends of ash shoots; particularly the rapid growing terminal shoots. If you unfolded the leaves you'll find these little "fuzzballs" that are aphids. You might also find lady beetle larvae that are feeding on the insects. Control is usually either letting it be – since any treatment will not uncurl the leaves and the lady beetles do a pretty good job of control. – but acephate (sold as Orthene Turf, Tree and Ornamental Spray) is a systemic pesticide that will kill the aphids as they feed. Most other insecticides are contact poisons and will not reach the aphids living inside the curls.

E-samples

The cedar bark beetle adults are emerging throughout the state. There are several species of cedar bark beetles that attack junipers, both eastern redcedar and Rocky Mountain juniper and while there are different species of these bark beetles, they all share the same genus *Phloeosinus* so have similar characteristics. The adults are reddish brown to black and about 1/8-inch long. They emerge from equally small holes that occur along the limbs and trunks of junipers. These insects usually attack only stressed or dying trees so rarely are the primary cause of any decline. The biggest problem with these beetles is probably as a temporary

nuisance as they will emerge from recently constructed rustic cedar furniture that is brought into the house at the end of the summer.

Samples received

Davison County **What is wrong with this pine. Some of the lower limbs are dying. The ground has been wet but no standing water for more than a day.**

Some of the symptoms, chlorotic, stunted new needles, are consistent with what would be expected for flooding injury and pines are very sensitive to flooding. Even a day or two of standing water, particularly if this is repeated several times during the season can result in decline and death of the tree. I was also able to find symptoms and signs of dothistroma needle blight on the older needles and this disease is an additional stress to the tree. The needle blight can be managed with two applications of a fungicide containing chlorothalonil made mid-May and again in mid-June.

Davison County **What might be the problem with this spruce? Is it needlecast?**

There are no symptoms or signs on the sample that would indicate a pathogen. Instead the pattern of symptoms, yellowing stunted older needles are what you would expect to see with an abiotic stress that occurred a year or two ago. What environmental stress occurred a year or two ago cannot be determined by the sample. Planting, changes in watering, etc can all lead to this sort of injury. However, the newest foliage is closer to what is seen for normal color and length which usually indicates the tree is recovering.

Kingsbury County **What is wrong with these lilacs that have wilted?**

The shriveled, water-soaked leaves and blackening tips are common symptoms of the bacterium disease *Pseudomonas syringae*. The disease is appearing throughout the state this year and is one that is easily confused with frost injury. Bacterial wilt can be found on all lilac but it seems to be prevalent on Japanese tree lilacs and white-flowered common lilacs. The only control is to remove infected stems at least one-foot lower than the symptoms and do this pruning during dry weather. I also suggest that the pruners be sprayed with Lysol Disinfectant between cuts to avoid spreading the disease. The disease can also be managed with a spray of a copper containing fungicide made in the spring at bud break.

Lincoln County **These spruce have discolored and twisted foliage. A herbicide was sprayed nearby. Could it be the problem?**

The herbicide used should not be applied near conifers (that is on the label) as it can result in this type of injury. The sample submitted was too small to test for the herbicide but based on the symptoms I suspect the application is the problem.